

Our Ref: SLT/FSC-1811WSL

Wednesday 18th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

From my office window at Baysgarth I can see Hull across the river, and the knowledge that this is now the Covid-19 capital of the country, with a higher infection rate than anywhere else, brings the pandemic home and makes it feel very real. Many of the schools and colleges on the North Bank are now closed or partially closed and as a school, we are preparing contingency plans in case we have to follow suit.

I reiterate that we hope that this will not be the case, and we are confident in the speed of our own track and trace systems, which so far have helped to minimise the impact and keep our students and staff safe. Over the last seven weeks, we have sent home less than 50 students to self-isolate thanks to the vigilance of our staff, the honesty and quick communication from our students and the systems we have in place. Hopefully, lockdown will begin to have an effect over the next couple of weeks and we can maintain our proud record of staying open to all year groups.

The biggest impact of Covid-19 so far on the school population has been with Year 11. Once students reach the age of 16, they are allowed to download the NHS Track and Trace mobile app, and for a number of our students this has alerted them that they have been in the proximity of students or staff who have tested positive. Hence, whilst we have only identified a dozen or so Year 11 students who need to self-isolate due to close contact with an infected person, we actually have 55 Year 11 students not in school at the moment.

We are certainly not saying ignore the app, although parents and carers should note that the app is for age 16+ only and that a student under this age should not have the app on their phone. What we are saying is that this is a critical year for our Year 11 students and we need to have them in school as much as possible. Every family's circumstances are different, but we do think that if they have analysed their movements and know that the only source of infection is school, and school has not contacted to say they have been in close contact, and they are displaying no symptoms and the rest of the family is healthy with no underlying health concerns, then they should give serious consideration to coming back to school.

Facemasks

Since we introduced facemasks as a compulsory item a few weeks ago, we have given out over 1,000 free masks to students, who have forgotten or lost their mask. These masks come at a cost of £3 each to the school, so this move has cost us £3,000 so far. It tends to be the same group of students who regularly come to school without a mask and as one of our core values is Responsibility, we need to make a move to encourage our students to become more responsible. From next Monday, 23rd November, any student who has to have a facemask provided by school, will have an automatic £3 charge applied to their parent's online [ParentPay](#) account for a washable mask and a 30p charge for a disposable mask.

Extracurricular Clubs

The government has issued new guidance over the provision of extracurricular clubs by schools in the last few days. This does allow schools to run some clubs in certain circumstances in line

with Covid-19 guidelines. Our Sport team have been quick off the mark and Mr Wright has put out the following statement:

We have now been authorised to resume extracurricular clubs after school. These will be held in single year groups and in line with guidance from Sports Governing Bodies. All students are welcome to attend, but please note, there will be no late bus provision in place. The sessions will run as follows:

- Monday: Year 11 Football (boys and girls) and Year 9 Football (boys & girls)
- Tuesday: Year 7 Badminton (week A only), Year 8 Badminton (week B only) and Year 10 Football (boys and girls)
- Wednesday: Year 8 Football (boys and girls)
- Thursday: Year 7 Football (boys and girls)

These activities will start from Wednesday 18th November, 2.40pm to 3.40pm. Badminton will start on Tuesday 1st December (week A) due to the exams. Students will need to wear PE kit for the sessions.

Food Technology Practical Lessons

So far, this term we have not been able to deliver many practical food lessons due to Covid-19 guidelines. These have now been updated and finally give us the flexibility to be able to cook with our students, provided that the regulations are followed. This is great news for our students, but one of the guidelines is that no ingredients can be brought in from home. As a result, school will provide all the ingredients and equipment needed for students to cook, and parents will be charged for these ingredients via their ParentPay account. As we can buy in bulk, this is likely to be cheaper for parents than buying the ingredients themselves.

Equipment Packs

One of the areas in school that poses an infection risk for us is the sharing of equipment. Although students use an antibacterial spray at the end of each lesson to wipe down any equipment they use, the risks are still there and we have been looking at ways to minimise this risk. Over the coming week, students will receive an equipment pack that contains:

- Mini whiteboard
- Whiteboard pen
- Red, purple and black pen
- Glue stick
- Pencil
- Ruler

Students will be expected to carry these and use them in all lessons. It is expected that students bring a bag to keep the equipment in. When equipment runs out, it will be replaced free of charge. This pack will be provided free of charge by Baysgarth School, but if students lose any of this equipment, they will need to pay to replace it (we cannot loan out equipment in lessons) - again, stressing that Responsibility that is one of our core values.

Traffic on Barrow Road

I am grateful to John Sanderson for sending me statistics that show that since I started here at Baysgarth in 2014, the volume of traffic on Barrow Road has increased by nearly 20% to 70,000 vehicles every week, and that the most recent data capture showed that in a one-week period, 122 cars were recorded doing more than 45mph outside the school. Highways North Lincolnshire completed a survey on Monday night and have now promised a feasibility study into whether to provide a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road, to the west of Cornhill Drive, for those students who live on the new Falklands Way estate. I will update you when I hear more but again please reiterate to your child the dangers of crossing this busy road and that this should only be done at a crossing.

Other Notices

Just a few reminders and other updates:

- The deadline for nominations for the Parent Governor election is Friday. We will write to you next Wednesday with information about how to vote in this election. [Details are on our website for anyone still wishing to apply.](#)
- The Ski Trip has been postponed to 2022, as there is still likely to be disruption and restrictions in place next February.
- This week is Anti-Bullying week and we are marking it in school with a series of events and activities, culminating on Friday with National Odd Socks Day, where we encourage students to wear odd socks in recognition of their support for raising awareness about bullying – [you can read more here.](#)
- A reminder that next Friday, 27th November, is a school closure day.

And Finally...

Last week, a number of our students and volunteers from the local community, armed forces and veterans came together to plant 3,000 trees on the school site following a successful bid to the Woodland Trust. We are proud to be doing our bit to support the environment and bring us closer to becoming a carbon neutral site. Our Personalised Learning students were particularly heavily involved in this initiative - please enjoy these wonderful photos from the event.



Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Richard Briggs
Head Teacher